

**Special Meeting of the Barre City Council
Held January 21, 2012**

A Special meeting of the City Council was called to order by Mayor Thomas Lauzon at 7:45 AM. In attendance were, from Ward I, Councilor Dominic Etli; from Ward II, Councilors Michael Boutin and Michael Smith; from Ward III, Councilor Lucas Herring. Also in attendance were City Manager Steven Mackenzie and Clerk/Treasurer Carolyn Dawes.

Mayor Lauzon began a review of the draft budget he emailed to everyone. There was discussion on a number of topics, including:

- Inclusion of an assistant city manager position
- Decreasing the Police Department budget by \$50,000
- Decreasing the Street Department budget by \$40,000
- Merging the current Recreation, Facilities and Cemeteries Departments into one department with a decrease of \$50,000 in the total expenses for the new department
- Current open positions
- The possibility of a joint municipality floater position in the Police Department
- Road salt expenses
- The use of interns in the City Manager's office
- Expected FY11 surplus or deficit and the affect on the FY13 budget
- Capital ballot line item
- Developing a capital master plan
- Financial reporting to Council
- Preliminary planning for replacement of the City garage

Mayor Lauzon said he would like to see a formal report on the replacement of the City garage presented to Council by March 1st.

Mayor Lauzon said he anticipates the tax rate increase will be between 10 and 14 cents.

Councilor Etli said he would like to look for ways to increase the revenue side of the budget.

Councilor Smith said he would like information on the cost of an ambulance run.

There was discussion about the proposal to install a digital sign for the Civic Center, to be paid for with Semprebon funds. Manager Mackenzie said there are zoning and statutory issues with digital signs, and he will ask City Planner Michael Miller to address the Council on the issues.

Mayor Lauzon adjourned the meeting at 10:35 AM.

There is no audio recording of this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn S. Dawes, City Clerk